On page 20, line 24, after "G. 723." insert --The ITU-T (Telecommunications Standardization Sector of ITU) Recommendation G. 721 and G. 723 are all incorporated herein by reference.--

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 18 and 19.

Please amend the claims as follows.

1   3.   (Amended) [A picture and sound coding and decoding]

2 The apparatus [comprising the picture decoding and coding apparatus] of any

3 one of claim 1 [and the sound decoding and coding apparatus of] or claim 2,

4 [wherein said picture coding apparatus and/or

5   said sound coding apparatus includes] including priority

6 providing means for determining the priority of processing when coded

7 information is overloaded by a predetermined standard, and corresponding

8 between said coded information and said determined priority, and said picture

9 decoding apparatus and/or sound decoding apparatus includes priority

10 decision means for determine the method of processing according to the

11 priority when the received various information is overloaded.

1   4.   (Amended) [A picture and sound coding and decoding]

2 The apparatus of claim 3, wherein said priority providing means and priority

3 decision means determine the priority providing method for determining the

4 sequence of decoding, synthesizing and displaying of coded pictures or

5 sounds, and the processing method of presence or absence, or determine the

6   priority of the object of processing, according to at least one information or

7   more out of the picture coding method, picture size, contrast, picture

8   synthesizing ratio, quantization step, frame number, number of frames,

9   difference of inter-frame coding and intra-frame coding, display position,

10 display time, and difference of voiced section and silent section.

1   5.   (Amended) [A picture and sound coding and decoding]

2   The apparatus of claim 3, wherein said priority providing means and priority

3   decision means determine the priority to be assigned to the coded

4   information, or determine the priority of object of processing when decoding,

5   according to the time required for decoding or the time required for coding

6   when coding the picture.

1   6.   (Amended) [A picture and sound coding and decoding]

2   The apparatus of claim 3, wherein said priority providing means and priority

3   decision means define the execution rate for specifying the number of times

4   of execution of processing of decoding, synthesizing or displaying of

5   pictures, and determine the priority to be assigned to the coded information,

6   or determine the priority of object of processing when decoding, according to

7   the execution rate.

1   7.   (Amended) [A picture and sound coding and decoding]

2   The apparatus of claim 4, wherein the priority is set high in processing in

3   overload of at least a frame of intra-frame coding, first frame or last frame,

4   or scene change frame.

1   8.   (Amended) [A picture and sound coding and decoding]

2   The apparatus of claim 4, wherein same priority is assigned in the inter-

3   frame coded pictures.

1   9.   (Amended) [A picture and sound coding and decoding]

2   The apparatus of claim 4, wherein plural steps of priority are assigned in

3   intra-frame coded pictures.

1   10.   (Amended) [A picture coding and decoding] The

2   apparatus of claim 1, wherein said picture decoding means decodes the

3   picture in a specified unit smaller than one frame.

1   11.   (Amended) [A picture and sound coding and decoding]

2   The apparatus [comprising the picture decoding and coding apparatus] of

3   anyone of claim 1 [and the sound decoding and coding apparatus of] or claim

4   2, wherein the sequence of pictures and sounds to be decoded, synthesized or

5   displayed, presence or absence, or reproducing method is determined,

6   according to at least one information or more out of the accounting inf

7   ormation, service content information, password, user code, nation code,

8   information showing rank of synthesis or display, information showing rank

9   of decoding, user" s instruction, terminal processing capacity, and

10   reproduction time.

1   12.   (Amended) [A picture and sound coding and decoding]

2   apparatus [comprising the picture decoding and coding apparatus] of anyone

3   of claim 1 [and the sound decoding and coding apparatus of] or claim 2,

4   wherein said reception control means handles the information describing the

5   mutual relation of information of pictures or information of sounds, out of

6   the various information, independently as different information from the

7   picture information or sound information.

1   13.   (Amended) [A picture and sound coding and decoding]

2   The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the describing method is distinguished by

3   an identifier for distinguishing the describing method for describing the

4   mutual relation of information of pictures or information of sounds.

         14.   (Amended) [A picture and sound coding and decoding]

2   The apparatus [comprising the picture decoding and coding apparatus] of

3   anyone of claim 1 [and the sound decoding and coding apparatus of] or claim

4   2, wherein said picture synthesizing means or sound synthesizing means

5   holds, controls and utilizes the result of decoding until it is instructed to

6   discard the result of decoding from the transmission side.

1   15.   (Amended) [A picture and sound coding and decoding]

2   The apparatus [comprising the picture decoding and coding apparatus] of

3   anyone of claim 1 [and the sound decoding and coding apparatus of] or claim

4   2, wherein the user is informed of the presence of pictures or sounds that

5   cannot be synthesized because necessary decoded pictures or sounds are not

6   prepared, when synthesizing the pictures or sounds, on the basis of the

7   information describing the mutual relation of information of pictures or

8   information of sounds.

1   17.   (Amended) [A] The real time picture coding apparatus of

2   claim 16, wherein said coding process decision means determines at least the

3   priority of coding, priority information of processing when overloaded,

4   coding method, value of quantization step, number of frames, size of picture